Chapter 4
"BunKyoku" Star
Star of Fate
第四話
文曲星

It became quite late didn't it?
Because His Highness didn't really seem to want to go back .....
Zhan Zhao
What is it?
There's a girl in mourning clothing .....
Please! Let me meet with Lord Seishu!
He's in that palanquin, isn't he!?

TN: Front 2 signs are "Kaihou Official" Back 2 ... I don't know. One is "silence" or "call to order" Not sure about the other. Back 2 are in all period court rooms that I have seen

Don't be rude!
This is the Kaihou Official, Lord Bao
Well, that's Lord Seishu, isn't it!?
Lord Seishu!
I was murdered!
Please, somehow retrieve my body!!
Don't you have the wrong person!?
What's all this fuss?
Ah!
Lord Zhao
this girl's saying some weird things .....
buuu~~~ (angry noise)
Eh!?
I'm... because I'm a ghost
I CAN'T in the morning!
If you want to file an appeal, you can come to the Kaihou Office in the morning .....
It's not good for a young lady to be out this late at night.

Now
Let's stop teasing people and hurry on home.
Okay ?
I've never heard of a ghost as strong sprited as you are.
A ghost would be disappearing about now. You know, usually something like a flickering woman
.....
pu ppfft
ha ha ha!
Ah
.....
Someone see her off
Wait
!!
hiyari- shiver

She's... as cold as ice.
I told you, didn't I?
I'm ... a ghost ...
Zhan Zhao
Lord Bao ...
!?
Ah
You're Lord Seishu!?

Oh, awesome ♡
kyaaa
きゃあ♡
Is she really a ghost
Pr
pro-
bably
Anyway, I'll listen to your story at the Kaihou Office
Follow us.
……
※門神
Author note: monshin- door gods that protect against intrusions by the sprits of the dead and other evil beings
If you're Lord Seishu, then I'd like to follow you anywhere, but...
But the Kaihou Office's monshin are, well...
※
Because I'm a ghost, I can't enter past them
ururu - teary
sobs
It's fine if you don't go through the doors, isn't it?
well
Yeup ♡
Why is it me
zokuzoku - shivering

Since I'm doing you a favor, please don't try to possess me
Don't worry
You're not my type
oh, good ⋮
should I be happy or sad ...
What is your name ?
TN: mistress= daughter here
I'm from the You house of Goushou city in Chuubou county
I was the hand-maiden of the young Mist-ress
You Minmin
I... The master of You House !!
Lord You Sei wronged me by charging me with a false accusation and had me killed !!!

TN: Imperiol Exominotions (more detoil on Kokyo) : Ancient Chino hod o series of exoms for onyone looking to join public office. There were different exoms for different levels, and you hod to work your woy up to the more difficult exoms to get higher ronkings. You could NOT hold office before passing these tests. Some tests were strotegy, some literoture, some poetry, some philosophy. The requirements varied for eoch ero, but ot it's height, ony (mole) with on educotion could opply ond get into government.

*科挙 - Author Note: Kokyo - o test given to choose those who will be Officiols

Give me the details
.....
From a young age, the Master has always wanted to raise the prestige of his family's name
He dreamed of taking the Kakyo* exam and becoming a Court Official
So then the Master put out a call throughout Chuubou county searching for a prodigy. He found Lord Tou Bunkyou.
He helped Lord Tou with things like his school expenses.
But in the end, he wasn't able to pass. So he thought he'd pass that dream on to his son.
And then, only a single daughter, Lady Housen, was born to him.

If he passed the Imperial Exam, then he'd be allowed to marry my lady.
In other words, he would be adopted into the family through marriage
But the other day an Official, Lord Saichuu ...
The master had called him over to discuss this issue
Adopt through Marriage !?
Who knows if he can even pass the Imperial Exam? It's so uncertain. Stop depending on a complete stranger like that.
Besides, don't you have a more certain means of rising through the ranks?
.... What are you thinking of?
Your beloved daughter, Lady Housen, should just enter the Inner Palace.
!!
W
WHAT !?

Look at Grand Tutor Pang
He has the rank of Grand Tutor
And wasn't that just because his daughter became a Consort?
Lady Housen is a marvelous beauty
Without a doubt, she could win His Majesty's affection, don't you think?
But ....
With Lady Housen's good looks, she should easily be able to gain the same level as Consort Pang, all on her own.
No ⋮
She's young and that's also a big advantage
Fortunately, His Majesty doesn't yet have an heir
If Lady Housen should give birth to a son
It's quite possible that child would become the next Emperor
M
My grandson as the Emperor ⋮ !?

His Majesty is a nice, proper young man...
For Lady Housen, don't you think that is a better solution
That's true
But, I don't really have the connections to have my daughter enter the Palace...
Leave that to me
I'm acquainted with a Palace Eunuch of Naiji rank called Shu
※ Author note: Naiji - a specific rank of eunuch. Author note: Eunuch- The men who ottended the Emperor ond the women of the Palalce.
TN: Men who worked in the Palace were made eunuchs so thot there would be no possible confusion on who o boby's daddy could be. This octuolly was a high-ronking job ond the eunuchs had a lot of power.
Eunuch Shu has something of a feud with Consort Pang's Eunuch Kou, so...
He's been looking for a beautiful lady who can rival Consort Pang
But ...
Housen and Tou Bunkyou have feelings for one another
To force those to apart now would be ...

There hasn't been a formal wedding announcement yet, has there?
So, what problem is there?
If Lady Housen enters the Palace, then we'll have obliged Eunuch Shu
And then Lord You Sei's career will also be made.
Besides, don't you think His Majesty would also be pleased ...
I told my Mistress about the conversation
I've served her since we were very young so we were like sisters
Min min
What should I do!?
I ...
If I can't be with Lord Bunkyou, then I absolutely Do NOT want it!!

My Lady
Why don't you talk it over with Lord Bunkyou?
Huh ?
Min min ...
If it's Lord Bunkyou, surely he can come up ♡ with a good counter-measure

I went to consult with Lord Bunkyou on behalf of my mistress.

I snuck out of the estate that night

tn: Song Dynasty China frowned really heavily on women out unescorted, especially at night. This is pretty big. >.>;

You two ....
What's going on here!?
Sneaking around and cheating in a place like this!!
You mis-under-stand!!
Master !?
!!
Even though I've taken care of you since you were young...
To forget that kindness and betray me in this manner!!
In this kind of situation, what kind of misunder-standing can it be!!
That's not right This circumstance ....
Bah
I don't have ears that will listen!!!

tn: the old-fashioned way of saying "talk to the hand" XD

If you two haven't disappeared by the time I return with my sword
Then I'll execute you with my own hands !!!
Please run away before he returns
Lord Bunkyou. the Master is serious
Master !!
No.... We didn't do anything wrong
He'll understand that once we explain properly
The situation has changed !!
Lord Bunkyou ... He's come to see you as an interference !!
In order for the Mistress to enter the Inner Palace ....

!!
Minmin! What are you talking about!?
Enter the Inner Palace !?
Lord Bunkyo, behind you !!!
Gabaaa
kyaa
bun whoosh
bun whoosh
I can't see well but...
Who is it ?
Is that the master !?

Lord Bunkyou, Run away !!!
haa
haa
Kabu CHOMP
YA ~~ !!!
AA
AI
zashu
kyaa
Min min !!!!
Min min !?
Da-
gashi chewing

!!
byo
gar
hashi
uu
su

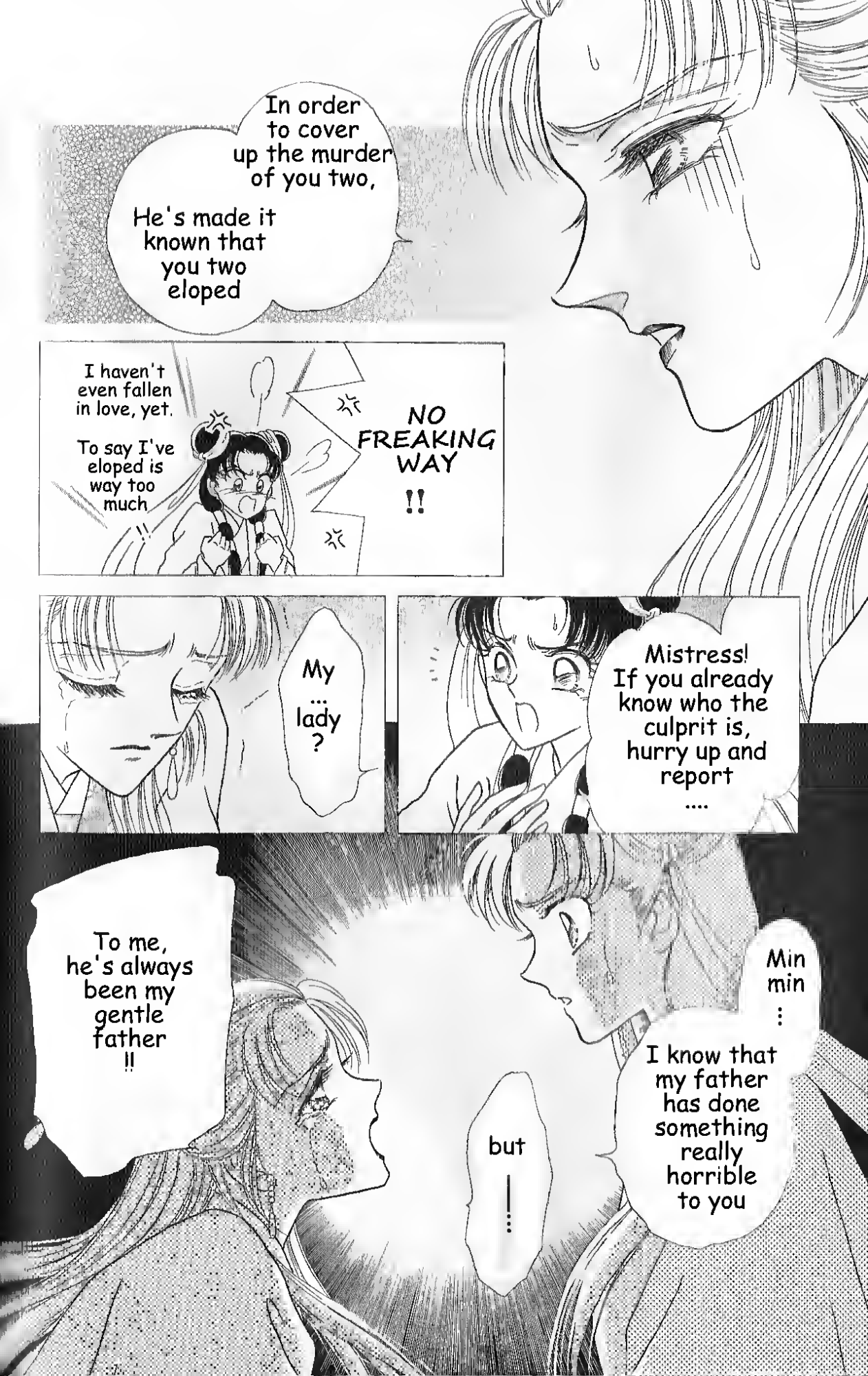
buchi
uwaaa
Lord Bunyou
byoo wind

Help
...
jiri
I don't want to die already ....
N.
No
ha
Kyaaa
Even though there were still a lot of things I wanted to do...
And even though I had my life stolen so suddenly, I didn't really have any regrets
He killed me by shoving me off of the cliff

I returned to her side as a ghost
And then
I became worried for my Mistress, who was waiting for my return, and so---
That you.... came to be in that form .....
Min min, I'm sorry
It's my fault
uuuu
Mistress
I do have a wish
How can I possibly make this up to you ?
we can't pass on !
As things are now, even if we don't have any regrets ...
Please find our bodies, Lord Bunkyou's and mine
Then file suit against the culprit !!

He attacked us with a sword, but he didn't seem familiar with the sword
He just swung about wildly with it
Do you have any clues to the culprit ?
He wore a mask so I never even saw his face
Mis-tress ?
.....
But, I clearly got the feeling that his aim was to take Lord Bunkyou's life....
So I waited for you by the gate
You were late returning
I...
pro bably...
That culprit was my father

I
It doesn't matter where I went !
Hurry up and return to your room please!!
You also, father .....
Where did you go that you needed something like a sword?
I saw father return from that direction carrying his sword
Hou sen
What are you doing this late at night !?
Min min ⋮
hasn't come back yet
giku - gulp/eek
Father
What are you talking about !?
FATHER !?
Min min ⋮
has run off with Tou Bunkyou
The two of them will not be returning here


In order to cover up the murder of you two,
He's made it known that you two eloped
I haven't even fallen in love, yet.
To say I've eloped is way too much
!!
NO FREAKING WAY
!!
My ... lady ?
Mistress! If you already know who the culprit is, hurry up and report ....
To me, he's always been my gentle father !!
but ...
Min min ...
I know that my father has done something really horrible to you

I just can't do it !!!
I know that he's become a murder, but to report my own father -----
Minmin, I'm sorry
Anything else you want, I'll do it!
So ...
Mistress .....
I understand my misteress's degree of pain.
But ...
My father ...
forgive him ....

I absolutely do NOT want that !!
As things are now, if Lord Bunkyou's and my names aren't cleared,
No one will hold memorial services for us, and we'll just ROT under that cliff
I came here to appeal
It will poison my lady's heart, but as it stands we can't pass on, so...
Because we don't have a "human" plantiff calling suit, I can't start a trail
how-ever
I under-stand the situation
We'll start an investigation

shun - drawback
I can't as a ghost, huh
See if you can find any evidence or witnesses
Look for other plantiffs as well
Sir
Zhan Zhao
Take Zhao Hu and Zhang Long and go to Chuubou county
Under-stood
Because she didn't see the culprit's face, the investigation will need to be done discreetly
Lord Zhan Zhao !

I got it
About the plantiffs ....
Please don't force my lady
because I think she's pitiful ....
niko- smile
.....
Please, Lord Zhan Zhao
This is a personal matter, but ---
I've something I would like to ask you
Well then ...
Min min

waku excited
It's about the "Seishu" thing...
that is :
If it's Lord Seishu I'll even tell you my three sizes
わくわく
What ?
I'll answer anything ♡

TN: Meibu is the Sprit Office. This is a common term, so after this I just use "Spirit Office"

*TN: I just left the original kanji there so people could see it

I said no
NO !!!
I went to meet with the Spirit Office Official
I was at a loss after parting with the Mistress, so
No other choice ...
There's NO WAY I'm leaving here before my regret is cleared up !!
Bun kyoku Star ?
Because that person is orginally the Bunkyoku star
Surely he will lend you his strength.
Try asking Lord Bao of the Kaibou Office

TN: this page, OMG this page.
Wen Chang = Bunjou in Japanese. God of Literature
The cup of the Big Dipper is the area considered the God of Fate. See notes for details 'cause this page hurt.

It's the fourth star of the Northern Seven Stars* also called "Tenken."

* Big Dipper

It's the star in the Big Dipper that points to the nearby 6 star constellation Wen Chang

文昌六星

北極星

天枢(貪狼)

天璇(巨門)

北斗七星

天権(文曲)

Tenken (Bunkyoku)

天璣(禄存)

玉衡(廉貞)

開陽(武曲)

瑤光(破軍)

Anyway, the Bunkyoku Star stands for things like wisdom and ambition

It's said to administer over things like happiness, wealth, and longevity

TN: Bao's that middle star of the Big Dipper.
The guy on the next page is the star on the end of the 'cup'

He said I was this "Bunkyoku" star ?
hmph
Rediculous !!
gatan chair clattering
I'm a normal human.
Not some Lord Star
You Minmin
You are being very rude to Lord Seishu
That's kinda proof that you are more than human, ♡I think
Oh
Your skin is black and you've got a crescent moon on your forehead
hey
That's also awsome

Lord Kui Xing
!!
Lord Seishu
It has been awhile
Are you ...
The Spirit Office Official ?
Yes

I've no know-ledge of this !!
I am your Subordinate
However, originally I was one who worked for the Lord Bunkyoku's Judge
Yes.....
Because at the time you received Heaven's Will to reincarnate as a human
Your memories as the Bunkyoku Star were erased
No
hmph
Then you have no way of knowing if I am the Bunkyoku Star or not. do you.

That crescent moon mark on your forehead is the evidence
That is .....
If that mark appears in this world, it is the proof of one who can freely go to the Spirit Office
hmph
Unfortunately, I've never been to a place like the Spirit Office.
You've got the wrong person

su
Take this
and please use it
!?
If you are the Seishu, when you use this Floating Sage Pillow
Your spirit will be sent to the Spirit Office

TN: yes, that's a pillow
or rather a headrest for sleeping

If you have a puzzling issue
please come to the Spirit Office at any time
SUU
.....

Lord Bao……
I am just a normal human ...!!
In No way!!
Could I possibly believe that sort of thing!!

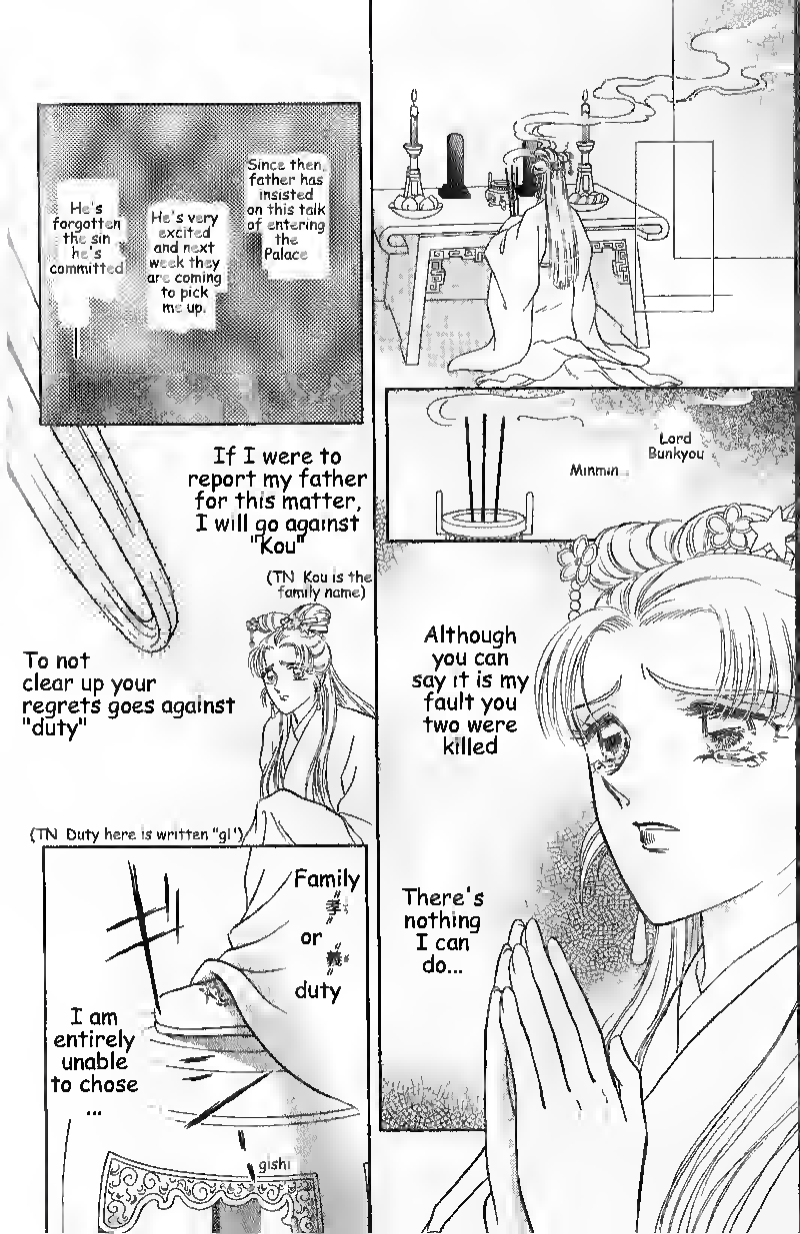
Na
Nat yet
Da yau see the carpse!?
Lord Zhan Zhao ---
goku - gulp
At any rate ...
ゴクッ
If one were to fall from this high up...
it wauld be the end of book one. *
*Tn It srsly says this
gasa - rustle
カリ
Yeah ...
Lard Zhan Zhaa is o really good climber.
The amazing King Cat
カリ

* TN: peiyu or haigyaku is the term he uses. They are usually worn by scholars or nobel men in 'disguise.' They are often used as a form of ID b/c they are handmade and uniquely carved
You're okay now...
You can have a proper burial.
Min Min ...
So this must be Tou Bunkyou
Zhang Long! Zhao Hu!
Toss down a rope!
Tou Bunkyou is alive!!
This ornament* is...

As quickly as possible, carry him to the Kaihou Office and get him treated
He's still alive, but he's pretty weak.
Because he's our important living witness.

...her worried mistress, Lady Housen, that Tou Bunkyou is still alive.
MinMin wasn't able to tell ...
chara- jingle

Lord Zhan Zhao what is that?
Execellent jade, isn't it?
Some-thing Tou Bunkyoku was holding on to
It probably belongs to the assailant
I'm going back to look for it's owner


Lord Bunkyou
Minmin
Although you can say it is my fault you two were killed
There's nothing I can do...
If I were to report my father for this matter, I will go against "Kou"
(TN Kou is the family name)
To not clear up your regrets goes against "duty"
(TN Duty here is written "gi")
Family
or
duty
I am entirely unable to chose ...
gishi
He's forgotten the sin he's committed
He's very excited and next week they are coming to pick me up.
Since then father has insisted on this talk of entering the Palace

What ore you doing!?
Releose me!!
I've no other way to opologize except through deoth
Ha gasp
Calm down!
Becouse Tou Bunkyou is alive!
eh?
You are ...?
On Yau Minmin's appeal, we are investigating this situation
I om ZhonZhoo of the Kaihou Office
Koihou Office
Minmin ... Reolly must feel like I have betroyed her, doesn't she?

No ...
She's really very worried obout you
If you did something like suicide
Minmin's ... regret would only grow
Ah...
uuu (crying)
Min min ...
I've some-thing I'd like to ask you
Does this jode pendont belong to your father?
No
What is this?
Probobly ... it belonged to the murderer
!?
Then ....
It's possible thot my father is innocent?
Yeah
In order to use this as evidence I'd like to keep it hidden in secrecy until the heoring

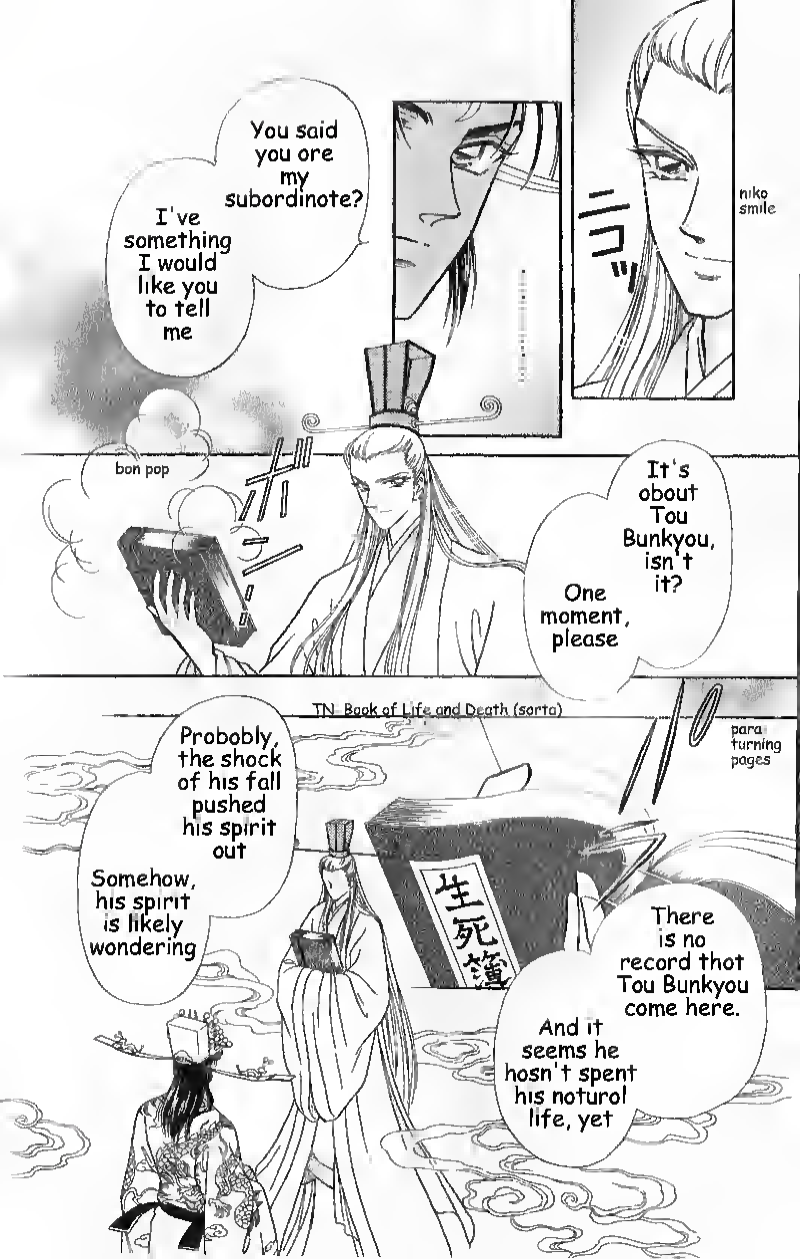
Someone other than Yousei who profits from Tou Bunkyou's death ....?
The owner of this jade
Because Justice Bao will certainly investigate the truth.
Yes ....
開封府
It's a miracle Tou Bunkyou was saved
how-ever ....
Gong-son sen sei?
Probably some tree branches broke his fall
Somehow, it's like his soul has fled his body ---
No matter what methods I use, his conciousness isn't returning

Min min
Moybe his spirit went to the Spirit World occidentolly?
Perhops the Spirit Officiol could use o different means
If you ore Lord Seishuu, you con go to the Spirit Office, right?
So why don't you go look for him?
I obsolutely refuse to return to the Spirit World until Lord Seishuu hos cleored my regret!!
If I go there, I won't be able to return here o second time!!
For thot motter, if it is the Spirit Office, shouldn't you, the spirit, be the one to go?!
Didn't I say I om o normol humon !?

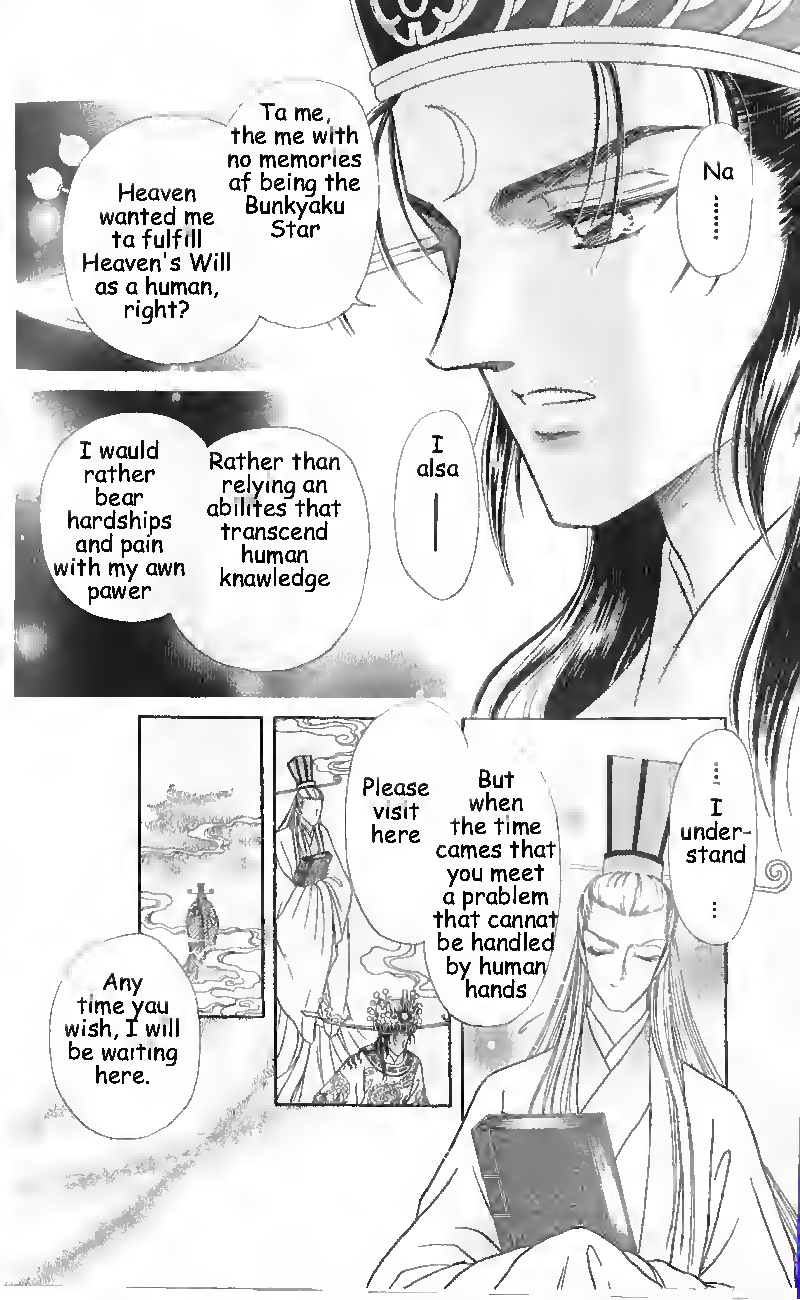
Lord Bao ...
Just this once, why don't you try the Floating Sage Pillow?
Even Gongson-sensei ... why?
As it stands now, if his spirit doesn't return, Tou Bunkyou will die.
If that happens, this situation will have no resolution, right?
And if that happens, I will just have to stay by Lord Seishu's side for~~ev~~er right~?
That could be good too
ウフン
.....
uhun (pervy giggle)
Can't help it
I'll give it a try
.....

Will he really be able to go to the Spirit Office with that?
Who can say
However, it is something given by a spirit being
Trying has merit
This is

(Yin Yang Treasure Palace)
Inyou Houden?
宝陰陽殿?
That is Lard Seishu's real farm
And the strangest praaf that yau are the Bunkyaku Star
These clothes
—?


You said you ore my subordinote?
I've something I would like you to tell me
niko smile
bon pop
It's obout Tou Bunkyou, isn't it?
One moment, please
TN: Book of Life and Death (sorta)
para: turning pages
Probobly, the shock of his fall pushed his spirit out
Somehow, his spirit is likely wondering
生死簿
There is no record thot Tou Bunkyou come here.
And it seems he hosn't spent his noturol life, yet

You said I reincarnated as a human to receive Heaven's Will
.....
What is "Heaven's Will"?
I'll go immediately to search for him and return him to his body. Please return to the material world and wait.
You have my thanks
(TN super formal)
.....
Presently, the rotted world of corruption is organized causing pain to good-natured people. It is to give them relief
I also am collaborating with you in this
I am at your service


Ta me, the me with no memories af being the Bunkyaku Star
Heaven wanted me ta fulfill Heaven's Will as a human, right?
Na……
I alsa—
Rather than relying an abilites that transcend human knawledge
I would rather bear hardships and pain with my awn paver
……I under-stand……
But when the time cames that you meet a prablem that cannat be handled by human hands
Please visit here
Any time yau wish, I will be waiting here.

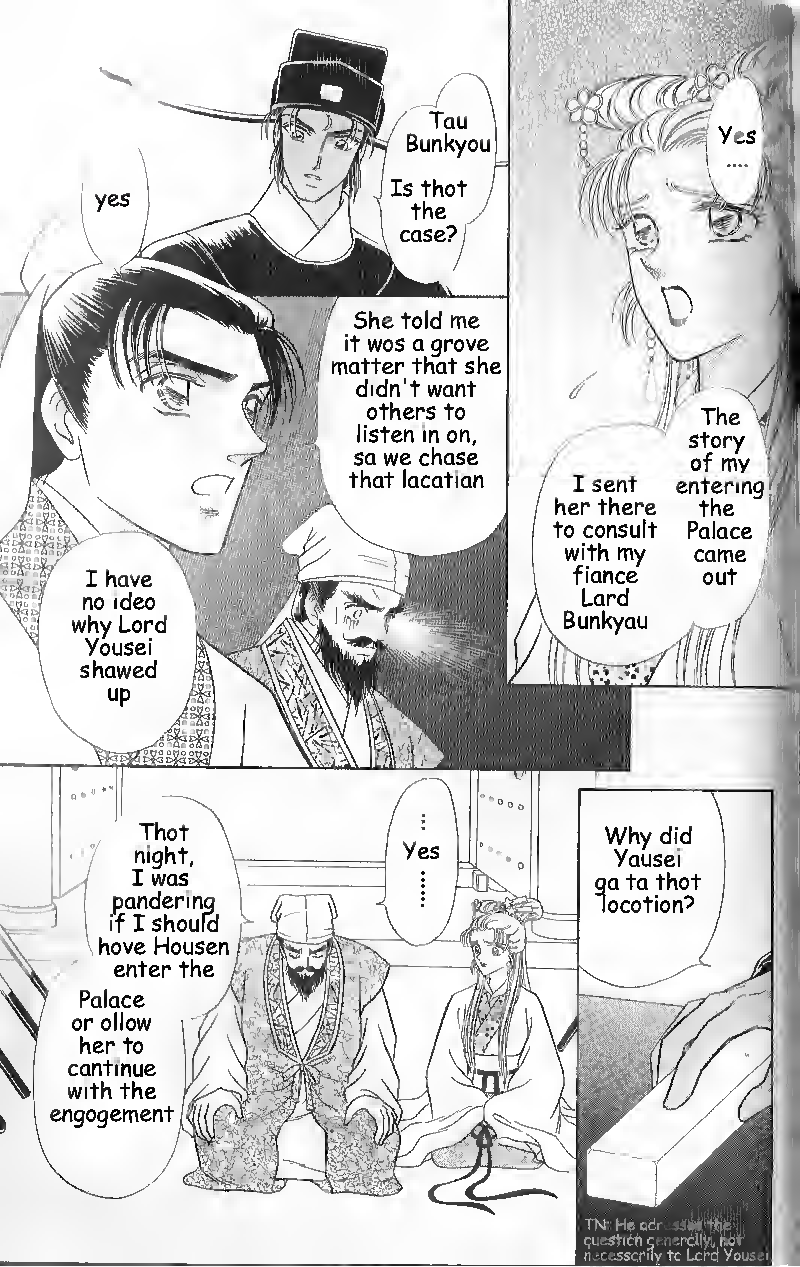
Lord Bao's sleeping face is also amazing
How was the Spirit Office?
Lord Bao
Then all that is left is the plantiff
Is thot so.....
You've returned already?
Zhan Zhoo.....
Lord Boo !!
Gong-son-sensei
Yes, I've confirmed the owner of the jade ornoment

Just now, Tou Bunkyou regained conciousness
He's agreed to be the plantiff
Summon all the people connected to the case!
To carry out justice !!
Yes, sir!
Right
Min min
Just wait
I'll soon be taking on your enemy

TN: He actually uses a verb that means "pursue and attack a criminal" but that doesn't translate well. ^^

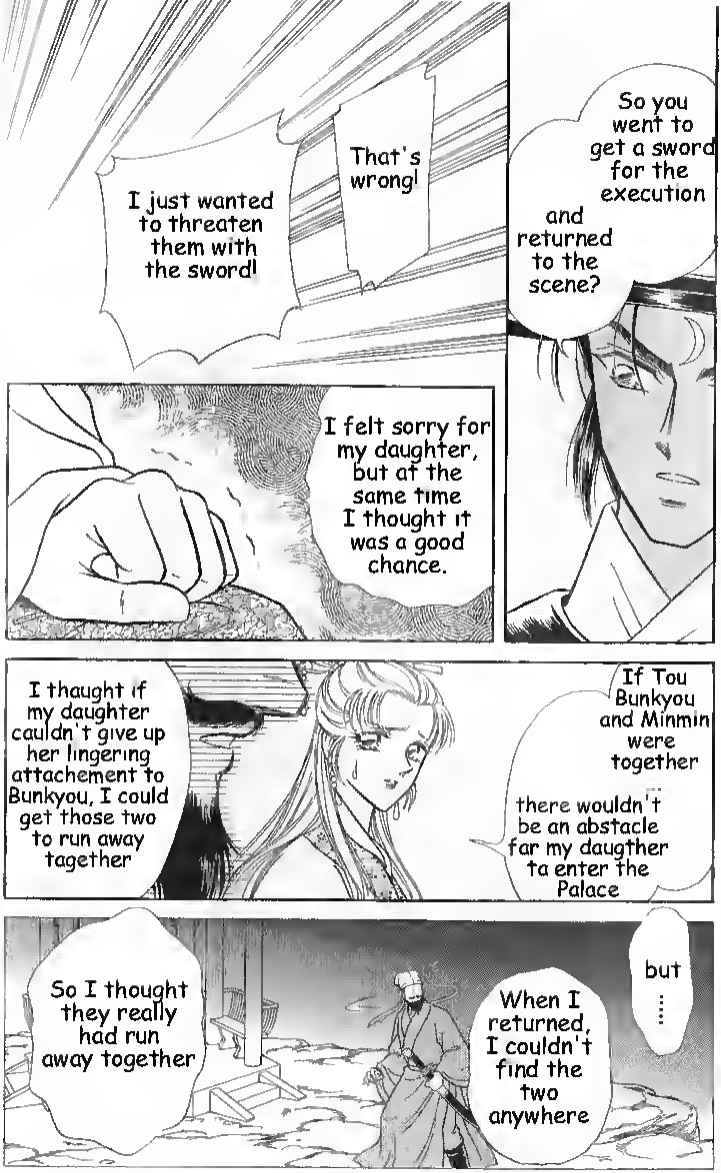
Lord Seishu
.....
Don
Now hearing the case of You Minmin's murder and
the case of Tou Bunkyou's attempted murder!

Why was I summoned to the courtroom?
The victims and I were not really very aquainted ---
Sir Bao!
TN: He uses the 'dono suffix
Afterwards, I have a few questions to ask Eunuch Shu
Be silent
biku biku - frightened shaking
Now then, You Housen
Your house maid, You Minmin,
Do you know why she was at the pavillion on the top of the cliff so late at night?


Yes ....
The story of my entering the Palace came out
I sent her there to consult with my fiance Lard Bunkyau
Tau Bunkyou
Is thot the case?
yes
She told me it wos a grove matter that she didn't want others to listen in on, sa we chase that lacatian
I have no ideo why Lord Yousei shawed up
Why did Yausei ga ta thot locotion?
Yes ....
Thot night, I was pandering if I should hove Housen enter the Palace or ollow her to cantinue with the engogement
TN: He addressed the question generally, not necessarily to Lord Yousei

At that time, I observed Minmin sneaking out of the estate
I followed after her
If she was off meeting with some strange man, I was going to stop it.
Minmin has served my daughter since they were both little
I felt like she was also my real daughter
In the darkness something suddenly moved
Minmin was just frightened
That's a mis-understanding !!
And then
I saw Minmin and Tou Bunkyo embracing !!!
The master was suddenly so furious
It wasn't a situation where he was willing to listen
If that was the case, why didn't you explain at that time?

He said he'd be back to behead us
I thought we could exploin then
Execution isn't very mild of a response.
It isn't officiol, but Tou Bunkyou was to morry my doughter...
Minmin is someone my doughter hos trusted for o long time....
Fother ...
That these two betroyed my daughter ond were sneok doting ...
Any fother would be ongry, right?
I thought, if my doughter knew, how devastated she would be...


That's wrong!
I just wanted to threaten them with the sword!
So you went to get a sword for the execution and returned to the scene?
I felt sorry for my daughter, but at the same time I thought it was a good chance.
I thaught if my daughter cauldn't give up her lingering attachement to Bunkyou, I could get those two to run away tagether
If Tou Bunkyou and Minmin were together there wouldn't be an abstacle far my daugther ta enter the Palace
So I thought they really had run away together
When I returned, I couldn't find the two anywhere
but ...

Tou Bun-kyou
I never thought that Minmin ...
hod been ... mur-dered
His foce wos hidden by o mosk
I connot confirm whether it wos Lord Yousei or not
Con you confirm thot the person who ottocked you wosn't Yousei?
Except --- As I fell from the cliff
In thot instont, luckily I grobbed onto o jode ornoment my opponent wore
Shouldn't the owner of thot item be the culprit!

It does not
These past few years, there isn't a single jade ornament that he's gotten that he hasn't given to me and Minmin
Everyone knows that about our house!
You-sei
Does this jade ornament belong to you?
With this, the doubt towards Yousei is cleared away ....
ho sigh
Right
We have already confirmed this
We have testimony from a person outside of the household

biku startle
Other thon Yousei, those who might profit from Bunkyou's deoth .....
jiro stare
Now then ...
However, if o beouty like You Housen were to enter the Poloce
And then goin the Emperor's trust, it would be very convenient, wouldn't it?
Sir Boo!
I - I wouldn't ..!!
ban bam
BE SILENT !!
But todoy is the first I've heard of Housen hoving o fionce.
T-thot's .... true....
Soichuu!
How con - !?
Even though I wos just octing os the go-between with o kind heart
It's your foult thot Sir Boo hosn't been oble to cotch the culprit!!
TN
The implication is that Bao spent resources investigating him when there was no real connect on b/c this guy wasn't clear

I ask the twa af yau
do you recagnize this jade arnament ?
.... I do not
There's no way I would, right?
Haw add
I heard it belangs to one of you two
明廉
Well then, bring in the witnessll
Thot's a false accu-satian ll

biku surprise
giro glare
ビクッ
ギロッ
おどおど
odo odo timidly
I'm a servant from Sai house, I'm called Saikou
Sai kou
I'd like you to clarify who this item belongs to.
!!
……Ah……
I……
I don't know
!!

Lord Zhan Zhao
Don't lie !!
The other day you said it belonged to your landlord !?
If you tell a lie in the courtroom, it brings up questions of purgery
It's not good for you to force a witness to lie
shi-
Bastard !!
That is the case ……
But then, if you were to clearly think about it, this sort of costly item, wouldn't it be unusual for a Lower Court official like Sai Chun to have
kachin clank
Sorry for being Lower Court
TN: Bao and ZhanZhao are upper court, so this is also a sort of reprimand for being rude.

Eunuch Shu
Ca-arefully look at this, if you would
Someone who doesn't have your status wouldn't be able to have this sort of precious antique, right?
Th-that is ...!!
That's why I've been saying the whole time that it's not my-
!!
Quite some time back, I gave that to Saichuu in payment for a favor I'd asked him to do!
There's no mistaking it!!

ugh ⋮
If that is the case, it is nat sa add far someone like Saichuu ta have a precious item like this
What a sare loser
Surely that thief is trying ta frame me!
I acknawledge that I received it fram Eunuch Shu a lang time aga!
They are using this incident to raise suspicians abaut me, without a doubt!
How-ever !
If that is the case, then ⋮
I am also a victim here!
Just after that, someone stale it fram me!

Tou Bun kyou
Other than the jade ornament, can you think of another way to point out the crimnal?
Please think carefully about it one more time
What Minmin did
Remember
When the criminal attacked you
Did the two of you put up a fight?
That time, we certainly
Ah!

Now that you mention it
While trying to help me,
Minmin bit down really hard on the criminal's arm!
Right arm?
left arm?
Right arm!
!!
gashi - I think it is a grab and silk move ment sound
I will naw be examining your right arm

Gui-fast silk move-ment
Lord Bao
There are very clear teeth marks
Evi-dence you cannot remove
Nothing you say can get you out of this!

Tou Bunkyo was a hinder-ance to getting Hou Sen to enter the Palace
If the opportunity arose, I'd always planned to kill him
gaku (slap)
I never could have imagined that he'd survive a fall from that cliff
Why go that far for Hou Sen enter the Palace ?

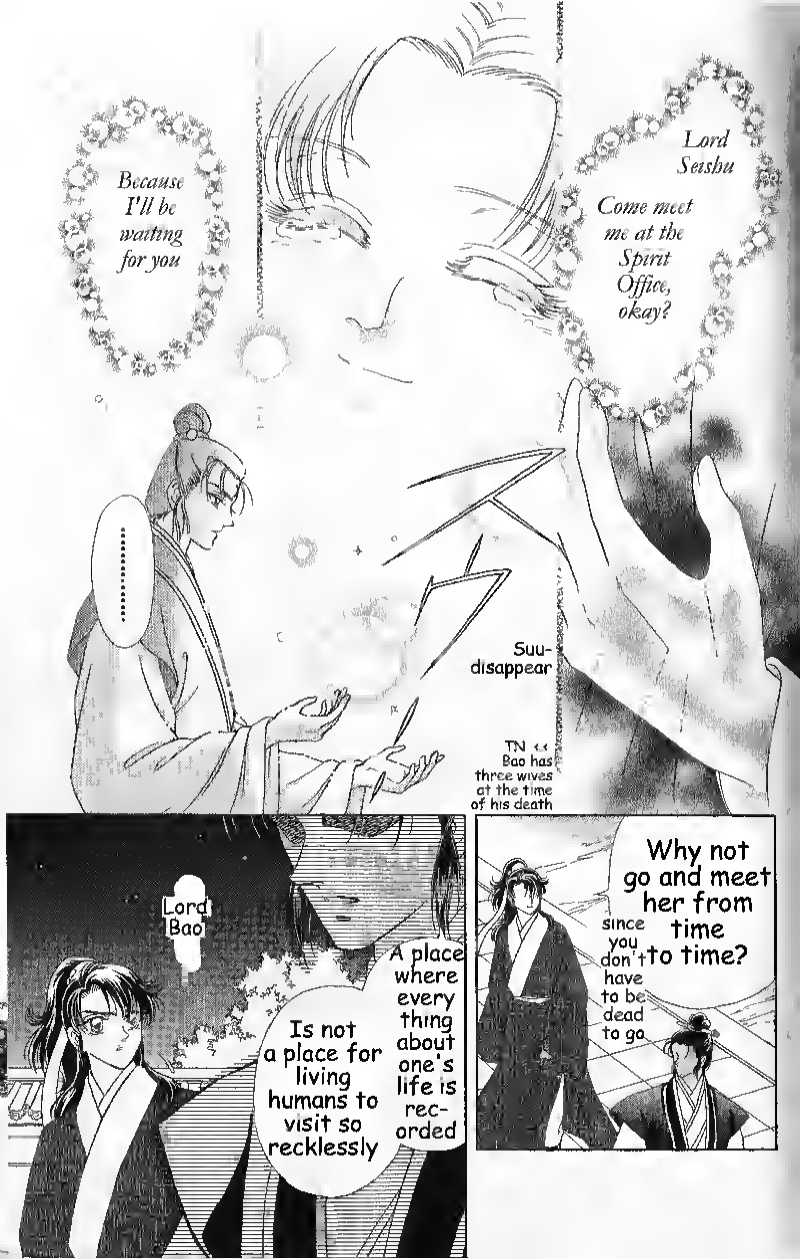
TN: Bao's nat surprised at the thaught, just that -this- guy had it, and nat the father. Presumably, this guy wouldn't get much fram it

*He uses a word not in my dictionaries, but contextually (and based on 'research' watching period dramas *cough*), I assume he means the rank a woman gets when she's slept with the Emperor. Not Queen, but higher status than the other ladies. Also, he drops the verb and I worked around it, but transferred is probably the proper word, even though he doesn't actually say it.
Just introducing a beautiful woman is worth 1000 ryou*
TN: See notes for details but USD$30K or 19k Euros depending on silver exchange
If that girl then becomes a consort* then I could be ..... to the Palace
Because that's what Eunuch Shu promised me
It's frustrating
For that man's ambition, Minmin was ....
Miss .....
I also mis-understood those two
I was deceived by that man
It's my fault

Pleose forgive me, Minmin
Master
.....
I, os well... I didn't understond the Moster's feelings
I'm ofraid I thought you were the culprit
I odore you very much
This event, it has me no longer interested odvoncing my sucess through things like
goining the honor of becoming on officer or low-grade court officiol, becouse
more importont is to not undo the path of o person
Tou Bun-kyou
Just os Minmin soys
Hahaha
This time he wosn't to blome, but
I'm sure thot Eunuch Shu hos done his shore of bod things!
He was so afraid !
That's right !!

You con give up on possing the Exam
As long as you moke Hou Sen hoppy
Master
I... up until now, I've studied becouse I wanted, even if just a little, to help the world
Like Lord Bao, even if I'm the only one, I want to become an officol who can help other people
No... I think I want to toke the Exam, after all
TN: ^ Another play on words with "officer/offical" and "help others"
kusu giggle
Work hard
Thot's ♡ my boy
Min min
Thonk goodness, right, Mistress
With this even ♡ I feel relieved

Thank you for everything
Being killed was painful, but
Because of that I was able to spend time with Lord Seishu
Lord Seishu ♡
ta ta ta footsteps
That made me very happy
Fuwa - floating/light


Because I'll be waiting for you
Lord Seishu
Come meet me at the Spirit Office, okay?
.....
Suu- disappear
TN << Bao has three wives at the time of his death
Lord Bao
Is not a place for living humans to visit so recklessly
A place where every thing about one's life is recorded
Why not go and meet her from time to time?
since you don't have to be dead to go

However
It's true this time was because of the Spirit Office
I feel reluctant to go to the Spirit Office, but
if it is the only way to help a victim
I won't stop
to help the people
Heaven's will has nothing to do with it
Because it's the path I chose myself

End chapter 4

あとがき

So this is the Author's endnotes page from Book 1, but I gave up trying to translate it. XD
As usual, original work belongs to Princess Comics and Takeguchi Lingling. The translation is mine, of course. I did the scanning (ugh, sorry, it's not great), cleaning, translating, and typesetting.
This translation is NOT for sale, and is made by a fan for other fans to enjoy. :D
If this becomes available in your country, please immediately discontinue reading this translation. Please support the original artists. <3

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独身か妻帯か迷う 今日このごろ…ﾚﾀ
みなさんはどちらがいいですか?

「北宗風雲伝」第一巻／完